

Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 COME-00 OES-03

DLOS-03 OFA-01 PM-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

L-02 EB-07 INT-05 H-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 CG-00 DOTE-00 SAJ-01 /102 W

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P R 101745Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5120

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL TANGIER

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 1778

STATE PASS OIF/NMFS/NOAA/DOC - KRAVANJA

COPENHAGEN FOR RFA; CASABLANCA FOR RFA;

GENEVA FOR LOS DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PLOS EFIS MO SP

SUBJECT: SECOND MOROCCAN-SPANISH NAVAL INCIDENT: SAILORS AND

TRAWLER EXCHANGED

REF: RABAT 1777

1. MOROCCAN NEWS AGENCY (MAP) ANNOUNCED APRIL 10

THAT TWO MOROCCAN SAILORS CAPTURED BY SPANISH NAVY

IN FISHING BOAT INCIDENT (REFTEL) WERE FREED. MAP QUOTES

SPANISH AGENCY EFE AS SAYING THAT "MADRID HAD UNDERTAKEN

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URGENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING

THIS NAVAL INCIDENT."

2. SPANISH EMBASSY HERE EXPANDED ON FOREGOING. ON APRIL 9, SPANISH EMBASSY FORMALLY PROTESTED INCIDENT AT MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND AT SAME TIME SPANISH MILITARY ATTACHE WAS CONVOKED BY MOROCCAN GENERAL STAFF. BOTH EMBASSY AND ITS ATTACHE PROPOSED TO MOROCCANS THAT MATTER BE SETTLED INFORMALLY IN MILITARY CHANNELS BY EXCHANGE OF TRAWLER AND CREW FOR TWO MOROCCAN SAILORS. ACCORDING TO SPANISH EMBASSY, MOROCCANS ACCEPTED THIS. AS RESULT, SPANISH FRIGATE BROUGHT TO TANGIER APRIL 10 THE TWO CAPTURED MOROCCAN SAILORS AND FREED THESE MEN FOLLOWING RELEASE OF SPANISH TRAWLER AND CREW CAPTURED BY MOROCCANS IN INCIDENT. SPANISH EMBASSY ASSERTS THAT TRAWLER WAS NOT REQUIRED TO PAY FINE NORMALLY LEVIED AND CALLS THIS CLEAR ADMISSION OF ERROR ON GOM'S PART.

3. CONGEN TANGIER HAS VERIFIED THAT SPANISH FRIGATE CAME TO TANGIER APRIL 10 AND RETURNED TO SPAIN FOLLOWING DEPARTURE FROM TANGIER OF TWO SPANISH FISHING VESSELS. SPANISH EMBASSY NOTES THAT SECOND SPANISH TRAWLER HAD BEEN DETAINED PRIOR TO APRIL 7 INCIDENT AND WAS ALLOWED TO DEPART FOLLOWING PAYMENT OF USUAL FINE.

4. COMMENT: FOREGOING CONFIRMS REFTEL'S COMMENT THAT GOM ANXIOUS TO PLAY DOWN APRIL 7 INCIDENT WHICH IN RETROSPECT APPEARS TO HAVE RESULTED FROM OVER-ZEALOUS ACTION ON PART OF MOROCCAN PATROL BOAT.
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